

REMARKS

The Official Action of June 2, 2005, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 21-29, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 12-20 have been canceled in favor of new claims 21-29 which remain in the application for consideration. Claims 1-11 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, Applicant having affirmed the Examiner's election requirement.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, Applicant has canceled the claim.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 12, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen '980; claims 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Huang '803; claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Huang, further in view of Hawley '796; claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Huang, further in view of Kobe '323; and claim 20 under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen, further in view of Spector '091. Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections especially as applied to new claims 21-29.

Chen clearly does not teach interwoven warp and weft threads which form a meshed net member that is first covered with a first polymer coating which forms a substrate including the meshed net member and an array of oval through holes through the top and bottom sides of the substrate.

Further, Hawley is directed to a shelf lining material comprising a thin continuous smooth surface layer adhesively joined to a scrim based plastic foam layer which will not slip when applied on a shelf. As such, the shelf lining is in a technical field which the skilled artisan concerned with grip strips to be wrapped around handles would not address. While the Hawley scrim based plastic foam layer is similar to the claimed substrate, there is no teaching whatever in either Chen or Hawley for substituting the scrim 14 of Hawley for the Chen substrate not only because Chen and Hawley involve different technical fields, but because there is no teaching whatever of engaging the surface layer 12 of Hawley by filling such layer into the through holes 24 of the scrim 14. Indeed, to do so would destroy the shelf lining of Hawley and the strip of Chen for their intended purposes.

Even if the combination of Chen and Hawley is presumed to teach the claimed grip strip (not admitted), Applicant further does not agree that it would be obvious as the Examiner maintains to:

- 1) Substitute the EVA base of Huang for that of Chen as the Huang base includes only randomly created pores 32 rather than "an array of oval through holes";
- 2) Add the release liner 36 of Kobe to the Chen/Hawley strip, as the Kobe slip control article is not equivalent in any way to the proposed Chen /Hawley strip.

Further, there is no teaching in Kobe that the release liner 36 is made from a non-woven fabric; or

- 3) Substitute the skins 16 and 17 of Spector for the claimed second polymer. There is nothing whatever in Spector that suggests or teaches such substitution especially since neither skin 16 or 17 fills an array of oval through holes as claimed by Applicant.

Applicant respectfully submits that combining the structural features the Examiner has isolated from the

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different cited prior art is obvious only on the basis of Applicant's disclosure, as there is no teaching whatever in the cited prior art to make the proposed combinations.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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